



Town of Dumfries
Council Meeting

Meeting Date: December 10, 2013

Agenda Item# XVI - B

AGENDA ITEM FORM

TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM:

- ☐ CONSENT AGENDA
☐ PRESENTATION
☒ ACTION ITEM
☐ TOWN MANAGER & STAFF COMMENTS
☐ PUBLIC HEARING
☐ Duly Advertised

PURPOSE OF ITEM:

- ☐ INFORMATION ONLY
☐ DISCUSSION ONLY
☒ DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION
☐ Introduction ☒ Resolution
☐ Ordinance ☐ Grant/MOU
☐ By Motion ☐ Bylaws
☐ Certificate

PRESENTER: Dan Taber

PRESENTER TITLE: Town Manager

AGENDA ITEM:

Town of Dumfries 2014 Legislative Agenda

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

The Town should vote on a legislative agenda for the 2014 legislative session

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed 2014 Legislative Agenda

REQUESTED ACTION:

Adopt the Resolution approving the 2014 Town of Dumfries Legislative Agenda

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Name:

Phone#:

E-mail:

FOR USE DURING MEETING

VOTE:

☐ PASSED

☐ NOT PASSED

Y N

☐ ☐ Brewer
☐ ☐ Reynolds
☐ ☐ Wood

Y N

☐ ☐ Foreman
☐ ☐ Toney

Y N

☐ ☐ Forrester
☐ ☐ Washington

AT A MEETING OF THE DUMFRIES TOWN COUNCIL, HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2013, AT 7:00 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 17755 MAIN STREET, DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA: ON A MOTION MADE BY _____, AND SECONDED BY _____, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

Charles C. Brewer, ;
Gerald M. Foreman, II, ;
Kristin W. Forrester, ;
Helen D. Reynolds, ;
Willie J. Toney, ;
Gwen P. Washington, ;
Derrick R. Wood, ;

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

WHEREAS, each year the Town of Dumfries discusses and prioritizes issues of importance to the Town; and

WHEREAS, Town Council wishes to share these issues with elected officials at all levels of government to solicit their support of legislative activities that further those goals; and

WHEREAS, Council has discussed and finalized the 2014 Legislative Agenda for the Town of Dumfries.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Dumfries does hereby adopt the attached 2014 Legislative Agenda.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council directs the Town Manager to forward the Town of Dumfries 2014 Legislative Agenda to the elected representatives at higher levels of government soliciting their support of the items included there within.

By Order of Council:

Gerald M. Foreman, Mayor

Attest: _____
Dawn Hobgood, Town Clerk

Town of Dumfries
2014 Legislative Agenda

Federal and State Partnerships

1. The Town of Dumfries supports all legislative efforts that will eliminate or suspend any unnecessary or unfunded mandates on local government.
2. The Town of Dumfries supports the full funding of state mandated retirement and employment benefits, including the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) and Line of Duty benefit costs.
3. The Town of Dumfries opposes any further reductions to 599 funding and encourages a restoration of previous full 599 funding levels.
4. The Town of Dumfries is requesting the General Assembly and Executive Branch recognize towns as essential units of local government. Town sovereignty should be considered in all legislation. No legislation should be enacted that allows counties to usurp or diminish the authorities of towns. The General Assembly and Executive Branch should scrutinize bills dealing with laws of general applications to local governments to avoid enacting any laws that would be sources of possible conflicts between counties and towns. The General Assembly and Executive Branch should recognize the unintended consequences of inadvertently omitting towns from legislation.
5. The Town of Dumfries encourages federal and state agencies to locate facilities within the Town of Dumfries. The Town of Dumfries has modern facilities and is a prime location next to Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA.
6. The Town of Dumfries supports the creation of a program wherein a state, on behalf of a local government, submits to the Secretary of the Treasury notice of a "past-due, legally enforceable local tax obligation." This would allow local governments to request that the IRS withhold federal income tax refunds to taxpayers who owe local taxes and direct those funds to those jurisdictions. The states already have this authority and Congressman Moran has introduced H.R. 2716, which would create this program for local governments.
7. The Town of Dumfries supports the ability of towns to retain the right to annex lands and otherwise expand their boundaries and towns with a population over 5,000 should have the right to become an independent city; and cities should have the right to revert to town status.
8. The Town of Dumfries supports revenue sharing mechanisms between localities and the state.

Transportation

1. The Town of Dumfries strongly opposes any devolution of state highway and road funding responsibilities where it shifts additional financial responsibilities to a locality.

2. It is expected that the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) will recommend several transportation legislative proposals. The Town of Dumfries would request that specific legislation be included in HB 2313 that would prevent a disproportionate allocation of administrative costs on local transportation projects on Towns and Cities for transportation projects not actually occurring within a Town or City.
3. The Town of Dumfries supports establishing a statewide transportation priority standard to guarantee return on investment for transportation projects. With this in mind, transportation projects should be rated on three factors: congestion relief, safety, and economic development. This standard should be used in all long-term planning to ensure a high return on investment. The top priority transportation project for the Town of Dumfries is the Route 1 widening project (UPC 90339).
4. The Town of Dumfries supports a change to the VDOT local road maintenance funding formula from lane mileage to lane volume; or, in the alternative, request changes that provide additional funding to localities that maintain their roads and have roads that exceed the statewide average traffic volumes for such type of roads by more than 20%. In addition, the Town of Dumfries supports a change in the composition to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to have greater representation to the urban/dense suburban areas of the Commonwealth.
5. The Town of Dumfries strongly supports town voting membership on regional transportation authorities based on population percentage. There should be a minimum of one town representative on each regional transportation authority per ten percent of population.

Administration of Government

1. The Town of Dumfries supports legislation that would permit alternatives for the current publishing of legal notice advertisements in newspapers, as currently required by various state laws for various types of notices. In particular, the Town supports legislation that would allow legal ads to be posted on a localities' website to reduce current publication costs.

Environment

1. The Town of Dumfries requests that the legislature assign additional authority and powers to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that would assist the agency in aiding local governments in the protection of its citizens. Such additional authority and power should include the ability to levy and collect fines, without negotiations, from businesses whose actions and practices are detrimental to land and air quality.
2. The Town of Dumfries with Resolution R-2012-067 has committed to working with organizations such as the Friends of Quantico Bay to protect our waterways through a variety of programs that include restoration, dredging, sediment control, runoff abatement, and invasive species removal. To that end, the Town supports legislation that will improve the state's stewardship of preserving Virginia's natural resources. The Town of Dumfries believes that our federal and state government partners have a duty to fund programs and policies that support the stated goals of the Town and Chesapeake Bay preservation while avoiding adopting a multitude

of unfunded mandates and policies upon the Commonwealth that are then passed down to localities.

3. The Town of Dumfries supports giving water authorities and similar agencies the authority to receive conservation easements under the Conservation Easement Act. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation's operating costs should be fully funded. State incentives in lieu of tax credits should be created for local governments seeking land designated for watershed protection in conservation easements.

Land Use

1. The Town of Dumfries requests that consideration be given to amend Title 25.1 of the Virginia Code as it pertains to the eminent domain process that would require that parties in condemnation proceedings agree upon a single independent appraiser to determine the fair market value of any property in question.
2. The Town of Dumfries supports Prince William County in its request for revisions to 15.2-2303.1:1, VA Code Ann., which delays collections of proffers until final inspection. Preventing local governments from collecting cash proffer payments at either the site plan stage for transportation improvements, or the building permit stage for other types of improvements delays the needed infrastructure improvements until the residents have moved in. It is preferable to begin these infrastructure improvements concurrent with the development that necessitates the infrastructure.

Local Government Investment Pool

1. The Town of Dumfries opposes any changes to investment policies of the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) that would jeopardize the Pool's rating or compromise the long-term stability of the Pool.

Taxation

1. The Town of Dumfries supports the Northern Virginia Cigarette Tax Board's legislative agenda that no changes to the cigarette tax code are made that eliminates the Northern Virginia Cigarette Tax Board or limits the power of the Northern Virginia Cigarette Tax Board. In addition, the Town supports the position that no changes that would limit any municipalities' ability to impose or collect a cigarette tax be approved.
2. The Town of Dumfries opposes legislation that reduces a locality's ability to raise revenue without replacing the lost funding through another funding stream. In addition, the Town also opposes the transference of local revenues to state administered revenue, particularly when those revenues are distributed disproportionately among localities or not remitted to localities at all.
3. The Town of Dumfries supports General Assembly expansion of religious uses that qualify property for exemption from local real property taxation.
4. The Town of Dumfries supports maintaining tax-exempt status for municipal bonds. To lose this status would have a devastating effect on local government's ability to debt finance capital projects.

5. Congress may consider the Marketplace Fairness Act, a bill that would allow states to enforce existing sales tax laws for on-line sales. The Town of Dumfries supports enforcement of the existing sales tax as it would be applied to online sales.
6. The Town of Dumfries opposes the repeal or restriction of BPOL or excise taxes unless, at a minimum, suitable revenue-neutral replacement sources are provided.
7. The state and federal governments should make payments in lieu of taxes for tax-exempt properties in amounts equal to the cost of local services provided.
8. The Town of Dumfries supports state legislation to make clear that transient occupancy taxes and sales taxes are applied on the cost of the room paid by the consumer, regardless of the means used to reserve a room.
9. The Town of Dumfries supports granting the authority cities and towns currently have to enact local excise taxes, including the cigarette tax, admissions tax, and meals tax, to the counties. Doing so would allow counties to raise additional revenues for transportation projects.

Community Maintenance

1. The Town of Dumfries joins many jurisdictions throughout Virginia in support of raising the civil penalty for “popsicle sign” violations. These signs often distract the motoring public and are often left along roadsides creating visual blight. An increase in fines would improve enforcement by deterring this illegal behavior.
2. In the Town of Dumfries, several small circulation publications are delivered on a free, non-subscription basis to residences within the community. These publications are often left in driveways and front lawns, creating eyesores especially when such delivery is made to unoccupied businesses and residences. Residents report difficulty in “unsubscribing” to these unsolicited deliveries. The Town of Dumfries would like the General Assembly to explore legislation that would address this issue.
3. The Town of Dumfries asks that the General Assembly broaden laws dealing with blight and building permits issued for renovation repairs to require timely completion of the work or, failing a legitimate plan by the owner, diligently pursued, to complete the work, to allow local government action to correct the health and public safety problems created by projects that are not completed and to either seize available assets of the owner and use them to fund corrective action, or recover the locality’s costs on a priority basis in the same manner as unpaid taxes. Further, the definition of derelict buildings should be expanded to include buildings never completed to a state that would meet the definition in section 15-2.907.1.
4. The Town of Dumfries requests an amendment to the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code whereby building permits for residential structures in specific zoning districts have a two-year time limit for completion and issuance of an occupancy permit for any new structure or addition to an existing structure.

Tourism

1. The Town of Dumfries requests state funding in support of Historic Dumfries, Inc. and the Weems-Botts Museum. The details of the history of Dumfries and the building itself are revealed personally during guided tours of the museum. In 1798, Parson Mason Locke Weems, the first biographer of George Washington, purchased the building for his bookstore and warehouse. In 1802, he sold the building to Benjamin Botts, the youngest lawyer on the team that defended Aaron Burr during his infamous treason trial. Botts used the building as one of his law offices. The Weems-Botts Museum adds another essential piece of history that adds to the I-95 corridor in Prince William County becoming an historic tourism corridor. The Town of Dumfries requests state funding of \$30,000 for programs to the general public, Home School programs as well as the Prince William County "Virtual Classroom" which is available via the internet, continued cataloging of historical artifacts and documents as well as preservation of material assets.

Elections

1. The Town of Dumfries supports the Prince William County Electoral Board's request that the Commonwealth fully reimburse local governments for compensation and expenses associated with electoral boards and general registrars. Sections 24.2-108 and 24.2-111 require the General Assembly to establish compensation and an expense plan and require localities to pay those expenses with annual reimbursement.